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National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Ghana

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I. Methodology

1. After the second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle in October 2012, Ghana accepted 123 of the recommendations and rejected 25. Ghana has fully and or partially implemented some of the recommendations. Some of the recommendations are in the process of being implemented. This report focuses on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations which were accepted by Ghana at the second cycle of the UPR. The report is based on the recommendations and the subtitles are tailored on the recommendations.

2. In drafting this report, the guidelines contained in decision 17/119 of the Human Rights Council were closely followed.

3. Ghana is yet to set up a standing coordinating body for the implementation of recommendations and reporting. A draft roadmap has been prepared (for adoption) for the implementation of recommendations and to also establish the standing coordinating body. Nevertheless, an ad hoc working group made up of various Government institutions was inaugurated to collate the report.

4. Like the first and second UPR cycles, this national report was prepared by the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice after a broad consultative process involving Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) such as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Health, Gender Children and Social Protection, Education, Employment and Labour Relations, Lands and Natural Resources, the Police Service, the Prisons Service and the Judicial Service. Others include the Ghana Aids Commission (GAC), the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and the Births and Deaths Registry.

5. The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator for Ghana, Ms. Evans-Klock organized two broad consultative meetings with the Office of the Attorney General. The first meeting involved representatives of the various UN agencies and the second meeting was attended by various human rights Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Representatives present at these two meetings made valuable inputs and comments to the report.

II. Development since the second review

Constitution – Review of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana

6. The Government of Ghana after studying the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC), which was set up to review the Operation of the 1992 Constitution, issued a White Paper in October, 2012 and stated its position on the recommendations. Subsequently, the Government set up a Constitution Review Implementation Committee (CRIC) in October 2012 to implement the recommendations, which fall into two categories, those that require referenda and those that do not.

7. However, in July 2014 a court action was instituted against Government in the Supreme Court of Ghana challenging the constitutionality of the work of CRC. The court action stalled the work of the CRC until judgment was delivered in favour of the State in October 2015. The recommendations of the CRC are yet to be implemented.

8. On Death Penalty, Cabinet granted approval for its abolition on 24th April, 2014. This is an entrenched constitutional provision which requires a referendum for its repeal from Ghana's statute books.

The 2016 elections

9. Ghana is a constitutional democracy with a strong presidency and a unicameral 275-seat parliament. Ghana once again on the basis of her observance of human rights principles successfully undertook the 2016 elections peacefully, like the five previous presidential and parliamentary elections conducted under the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. Generally, the presidential and parliamentary elections conducted in December, 2016 were peaceful, transparent, inclusive and credible. The security services maintained law and order in the entire country.

10. There are no laws in Ghana that precludes women or minorities from voting, running for office, serving as electoral monitors, or otherwise participating in political life on the same basis as men or non-minority citizens. Women in Ghana however, held fewer leadership positions than men. The 2016 elections resulted in 37 women being elected to parliament. Presidential candidates included one woman and one physically challenged person.

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment

11. Ghana ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) on 24th June, 2016.

Gender-based issues

12. A national End Child Marriage Project was launched in February, 2016 by the First Ladies of Africa in February, 2016.

13. Capitation Grant for Basic Education, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), School Feeding Programme, Free School Uniforms and Free Sandals have been introduced to increase access to and improve quality of education, reduce poverty and promote overall socio economic development.

Rights of prisoners

14. Remand population of the Prison Service has reduced significantly as a result of the 'Justice for All Programme'.

Promotion of health service

15. Community – based Health and Planning Services (CHPS) system has been introduced to promote health services in remote communities of the country.

Free education

16. Government will implement a Free Senior High School Education in September 2017 aimed at improving access to Secondary Education.

III. Implementation of accepted recommendations

A. Ratification of international conventions

17. Ghana ratified the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in December, 2016, namely the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OP-CRC-AC), the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children and the Optional Protocol on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OP-CRC-SC). Even though Ghana signed on to the newest OP to CRC on Communications Procedure on 24th September, 2013, it is yet to ratify.

18. Ghana is yet to ratify the ILO Convention 189 (2011) concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers. Ghana acceded to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (the Hague Convention) and became the 98th Contracting Party to accede to the Convention. The Convention entered into force on 1st January, 2017. The Children's (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act 913) has incorporated Articles 18-20 of the Hague Convention.

19. Ghana ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) on 24th June, 2016.

B. Integrating international conventions into domestic law

20. Ghana subscribes to the dualist tradition in international law. Therefore, under Article 75 of the 1992 Constitution, an international convention has to be ratified by Parliament. This has been affirmed in the case of ***Republic v High Court (Comm. Div) Accra ex parte Attorney-General; NML Capital Ltd., the Republic of Argentina*** **(No. J5/10/2013, 20th June 2013, pg 2).**

C. Strengthening of CHRAJ

21. Article 218 of the Constitution, 1992, gives the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) the mandate to investigate complaints of violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

22. The Constitution Review Commission (CRC) has recommended the expansion of the current Commissioners from three to five to reflect the three mandates of CHRAJ and the creation of Commissioners responsible for special groups.

23. The CRC has recommended strengthening of the enforcement mandate of CHRAJ to render its decisions analogous to that of the courts.

D. National Action Plan on human rights

24. CHRAJ is developing a National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) to take into account the United Nations Development Agenda 2030.

E. Non discrimination

25. Article 17 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana provides that:

(a) All persons shall be equal before the law;

(b) A person shall not be discriminated against on grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, creed or social or economic status.

26. CHRAJ has developed and is implementing a Discrimination Reporting System (DRS) to address issues concerning stigma and discrimination suffered by vulnerable groups particularly people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) and key populations.

27. Under the DRS being implemented by CHRAJ, the rights of persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity are protected. These include protection against violence, access to healthcare, stigmatization and discrimination directed at such persons and etc.

28. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) has structures in place to ensure that all persons are not discriminated against. The Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Secretariats, the Departments of Gender and Social Welfare and Child and Social Protection Programmes too ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities (PWDs), the vulnerable and excluded in society are protected and given the opportunity to participate fully in National Development.

F. Economic and social welfare

29. Ghana's current development blueprint, Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda II (GSGDA II) largely incorporates the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In spite of this, Ghana is implementing social protection programmes such as Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE), which includes Capitation Grants, School Feeding Programme, Free Exercise Books, Free School Uniforms, Free Laptops and Free Sandals. Under the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), the Government seeks among others, to alleviate poverty among vulnerable groups such as children, the aged and the severely disabled.

30. The Capitation Grant (GC) is one of the social intervention programmes introduced in 2005 by the Government with the aim of abolishing school fees in basic education, alleviating poverty and providing equal opportunities to all children of school-going age. The Government has recently introduced a policy of free Senior High School education effective September, 2017.

G. Access to justice

31. The Legal Aid Scheme Act is under review to strengthen the institution providing legal advice and legal assistance for people in need. A Public Defenders' Directorate is provided for under the reviewed Act in line with the Director of Public Prosecutions and this is expected to help ameliorate the deficiency. The resultant Bill is due to be presented to Cabinet for approval.

32. To deal with the issue of the backlog of remand cases, the Attorney-General's Office initiated the '***Justice for All Programme***' in September 2007. This programme addresses the problem of remand prisoners who have been in custody for a long period of time, and whose remand warrants have expired. Through the programme, many remand prisoners have been discharged either unconditionally or with conditions, whilst others have been granted bail.

33. The Ghana Prisons Service has established a Paralegal Department with branches in all the major prisons where inmates who are dissatisfied with their respective sentences are guided through the appeal process.

H. Death penalty

34. The CRC recommended that the death penalty should be abolished and replaced with life imprisonment without parole. Among the reasons it cited for its recommendation included the irreversible consequences of executing wrongfully-convicted individuals, the failure of the death penalty as a deterrent, the barbaric nature of the punishment, the fact that executions did not necessarily provide closure to victims' families, the arbitrariness of the punishment, the dehumanizing effect of executions, the need to focus instead on rehabilitation and the current international practice which is in favour of abolition of the death penalty.

35. In this regard, a Bill has been drafted for abolition of the death penalty following the recommendations of the CRC. The abolition of the death penalty, however, requires a referendum in accordance with the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

I. Prohibition of torture

36. During the initial review of Ghana by the Committee against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatments or Punishment (CAT) in 2012, Ghana accepted the recommendation by the Committee to enact legislation to criminalise torture.

37. Torture, as defined in Article 1 of CAT, has not yet been incorporated into the Criminal and Other Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29). Nonetheless, torture is prohibited in Ghana and provisions can be found, for instance, in the Mental Health Act, 2012 (Act 846) and the Prisons Service Act, 1972 (NRCD 46). The Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694) and the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2008 (Act 762) also provide indices against torture or cruel or inhuman treatment.

38. With regard to the Ghana Police Service, personnel are prohibited from torturing or administering any form of ill-treatment to persons in detention facilities as provided by Regulation 82(1) (j) of the Police Service Regulations, 2012 (C.I. 76), which states that *"it is a major offence for an officer to maltreat or use unnecessary force towards a person in the officer's custody"*. To this end, the Ghana Police Service has established the Police Intelligence and Professional Standards (PIPS) Unit which investigates cases of professional misconduct and ill-treatment of detainees and recommends punishment for perpetrators. Reported cases of torture and ill-treatment are investigated and perpetrators are made to face an internal disciplinary action.

39. The second leg of disciplinary action is criminal prosecution of the perpetrator. This is normally done on the advice of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. The punishment for prosecution, if the perpetrator is convicted, is the same as provided under sentencing in the Criminal Procedure Act (Act 30) of 1960 with no exception whatsoever. It is worthy of note that the decision to either subject a perpetrator to an administrative service enquiry or criminal prosecution in a court of competent jurisdiction is not mutually exclusive. Both can be pursued at the same time according to sections 9(1) (2) of the Criminal Offences Act (Act 29) of 1960. The remedy for victims of use of excessive force and unlawful killings is financial compensation.

J. Conditions in detention centres

40. Ghana is guided by the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) as well as the Guidelines on the Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa (the Luanda Guidelines). In particular, the operations of the Ghana Prisons Service and the Ghana Police Service are

regulated by Standard Operation Procedures consistent with the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Luanda Guidelines.

41. CHRAJ has the mandate to investigate complaints of violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms. Despite the absence of a designated National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), CHRAJ has since 1995 been conducting visits to places of detention. The ratification and implementation of the OPCAT will ensure the establishment of a NPM to undertake regular visits to places of detention in order to monitor conditions in detention centres.

42. Article 15(4) of the 1992 Constitution categorically states that *"a juvenile offender who is kept in lawful custody or detention shall be kept separately from an adult offender"*. Pursuant to the above mentioned provision and in accordance with the laws regulating the Ghana Prisons Service, adult prisoners are detained in adult prisons while young offenders and juvenile offenders are detained at the Senior Correctional Centre.

43. Ghana has been implementing a policy of decongesting the prisons through the '***Justice for All Programme***'. Admittedly, overcrowding is a major problem in detention centres, which is caused by the closure of some large holding facilities without their replacement and the ever-increasing remand populations in the various prisons. Consequently, the Ghana Prisons Service in collaboration with other agencies has taken steps to alleviate the situation, which includes the following:

- The facilitation of remand prisoners' access to justice with the assistance of officers who have undergone training as paralegals.
- Introducing periodic court sittings in prisons through the "Justice for All Programme" to hear the cases of inmates with overstayed warrants.
- The periodic transfer of prisoners from notably overcrowded prisons to under-populated prisons.
- Facilitation of the grant of amnesty to selected inmates.
- Expediting work on the completion of the Ankaful Maximum Security Prison to make the facility fully operational.

44. In terms of access to medical care, inmates are registered under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). The Ghana Prisons Service maintains infirmaries in all the prisons nationwide and, where necessary referrals are made to appropriate health centres.

K. Designation of National Preventive Mechanism

45. Even though Ghana has ratified the OPCAT, which requires the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) or the designation of an existing agency as the NPM, same has not been done except by law. There is currently no institution clothed with the legal mandate to undertake preventive visits to places of detention. Despite the absence of a legal framework for the establishment of NPM, CHRAJ has been undertaking regular visits to detention centres.

46. There is the possibility that, CHRAJ, having the requisite attributes of a NPM may in the future qualify to be designated Ghana's NPM. There will be the need to amend the law establishing CHRAJ to expand its mandate and functions to include the undertaking of preventive visits to places of detention in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments. In this regard, some changes to the mandate of CHRAJ would be required to make it compliant with the OPCAT, in particular, to aspects relating to financial independence and monitoring methodology.

47. Consideration also needs to be given to the recruitment of qualified experts by CHRAJ, their salaries and emoluments and the provision of adequate resources to enable it operate effectively as a NPM.

L. Human trafficking

48. Ghana is implementing the Child Protection Compact Agreement (CPC), to assist in combating child trafficking in the country.

49. Baseline survey on Human Trafficking was carried out in 2016 as part of the implementation of the CPC Agreement. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed to help in the identification of victims of trafficking.

50. Capacity building programmes for personnel of security agencies and social workers to assist them in identification, interviewing, rescuing and assisting victims of trafficking have been instituted. So far about 341 officers have been trained.

51. A Task Force Unit has been established at the Kotoka International Airport and manned by staff of both Ghana Immigration Service and The Anti- Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service to prevent young women, men and children from being trafficked through our Airports and also to arrest perpetrators of trafficking for prosecution.

52. Public sensitisation to prevent human trafficking is ongoing. Radio and TV Talk shows/discussions are being used.

53. A National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking is also being developed.

54. The General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) of the Ghana Trades Union Congress (TUC) is implementing a project at Kpondo-Torkor in the Volta Region. This project is aimed at eliminating child trafficking and child labour in the fishing communities along the Volta Lake.

M. Harmful traditional practices

55. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), in collaboration with the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service is implementing a three-year initiative to end Early, Forced Child Marriage (CEFM) in Ghana. The Project aims at changing the attitudes, behaviours and to re-orient the values of the girl-child through mass communicatio s, direct community engagements, media campaigns, and empowerment of the girl-child in local communities.

56. MoGCSP is developing a national strategic framework as the country's guide on how to effectively respond to and prevent CEFM. The National End Child Marriage Project was launched in February, 2016 by the former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Mrs Lordina Mahama and 5 other African first Ladies in Accra. MoGCSP engaged various stakeholders including Chiefs, Queen mothers, civil society, and communities in the sensitization programmes on ending CEFM.

57. Family Tribunal and Gender–Based Violence Courts have been established to fast track and resolve gender-based violence cases and, more importantly to improve on the administration of justice in respect of gender-based violence.

58. The Bonyase witch camp in the Northern Region, where 150 girls had been held, was closed down on 15th December, 2014. The freed girls from the witch camps were provided humanitarian assistance to help them reintegrate into their communities.

N. Rights to information

59. The Right to Information Bill was published in the Gazette of Wednesday, 31st July, 2013 and laid before Parliament on 12th November, 2013. The Bill is still under consideration by the Parliament of Ghana.

60. The decision in the recent case of ***Lolan Kow Sagoe-Moses & vs. The Hon. Minister for Transport & Attorney-General (Civil Suit No. HR/0027/2015, dated 13th April, 2016)*** will lead the way in ensuring more transparency in government and especially enable journalists and anti-corruption activists to seek information and expose nefarious activities of public officials. The decision is also another major victory for human rights and especially the right to information in Ghana. It presents an important avenue for the enjoyment of the right to information, especially access to official government information.

O. Health care

61. The Mental Health Act, 2012 (Act 846) has established the Mental Health Authority with the mandate of enhancing the living conditions and treatment of patients in psychiatric institutions.

62. For the past three years, about 700 of mental patients have been treated and discharged. The decongestion has also enabled the mental health facilities to improve sanitation.

63. The implementation of MDG5 Acceleration Framework (MAF): maternal mortality has been reduced due to the implementation of the Free Maternal Delivery policy in line with the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

64. Adolescent Reproductive Health Services have been scaled up to include Family Planning services as part of interventions to reduce the resort to unsafe abortions by adolescents.

65. Ghana has adopted the Community-based Health and Planning Services (CHPS) system to increase access to and use of health services in remote communities. This revolutionary system brings trained health care workers directly into the communities and rallies community support behind them to ensure the system's acceptability and sustainability.

66. In July 2016, a new National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan was developed for the years 2016-2020. The National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (NSP 2016-2020) is aligned to the UNAIDS 90-90-90 Treatment targets and aims to reduce new HIV infections and AIDS related deaths by 80%, as well as strengthen Health and Community Systems by 2020. Within the framework, several initiatives are being implemented including the "First 90 Campaign" and the adoption of the "Treat All" Policy to enhance existing programmes towards ultimately ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

67. The Ghana Aids Commission (GAC) has carried out studies on Integrated Biological and Behavioral Sentinel Survey (IBBSS) on female Sex Workers (FSW), Men Who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Prison Inmates, Stigma Index Study and modes of transmission Study, Epidemiological Analysis, Demographic and Health Surveys, to generate strategic information to guide policy decision making and program implementation.

68. The Heart to Heart Campaign is using Persons Living with HIV as Ambassadors to reduce the stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV. GAC is also

collaborating with CHRAJ to manage the Discrimination Reporting System in accordance with the Ghana Aids Commission Act, 2016 (Act 938).

69. GAC has ensured free registration of People Living with AIDS on the NHIS and has collaborated with the African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA), Ghana chapter, to provide comprehensive and free integrated HIV and reproductive Health Services to community members across the country.

P. Right to education

70. Ghana is implementing free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (fCUBE) to all children of school going age.

71. The Ministry of Education (MoE) will implement Free Senior High School policy in September 2017 as part of efforts to make secondary education accessible.

72. MoE provides a comprehensive package of support which includes school fees, material based support, community engagement activities and trained teacher mentors to provide psychosocial support to children of school going age. In this regard, girls are encouraged to go to school through the provision of some form of vocation or are placed in livelihood programmes. Specifically, the 'Take Home Ration' initiative by the Ghana Education Service (GES) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in the three northern parts (Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions) of the country have helped to bridge the gender disparity in education in certain deprived communities. School enrollments in rural communities have increased due to the provision of one hot meal daily to 1,677,322 pupils in all 216 districts in existing beneficiary schools in the country. The School Feeding Programme has also ensured the retention of children in beneficiary communities in schools.

73. In 2015, the Government of Ghana with support from relevant stakeholders completed the development of the Inclusive Education Policy together with a comprehensive Implementation Plan. The Policy defines the strategic path of the government for the education of all children with special educational needs. The Inclusive Education Policy was successfully launched in May, 2016.

74. The Government of Ghana, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders developed a Complementary Basic Education (CBE) Policy. The policy is currently guiding the provision of flexible learning opportunity for out-of-school children mostly located in hard to reach areas. The CBE has supported about 290,000 Out-Of-School Children (OOSC), about 50% being girls, with support from the Development Partners and the Government, from 2012 to 2018.

Q. Women's rights

75. The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice and the MoGCSP are jointly sponsoring amendment of the Intestate Succession Act, 1987 (PNDC Law 111) with the objective of removing anomalies in the present law relating to Intestate Succession and the provision of a uniform succession law that will be applied throughout the country irrespective of the inheritance system of the intestate and the type of marriage contracted.

76. Article 17 of the 1992 Constitution provides for equality before the law. Thus, every person has equal right to own property irrespective of a person's gender as buttressed in Article 18 of the Constitution to the effect that every person has the right to own property or in association with others. In the context of marriage and property rights of spouses, a Bill is currently before Parliament to regulate the sharing of spousal property in the situation of

divorce and death. The Bill makes provision for the protection of children born out of wedlock and women in cohabiting relationships.

77. DOVVSU of Ghana Police Service has put in place a system to ensure that every case of domestic violence including female genital mutilation that is reported is effectively investigated. DOVVSU works closely with the Judiciary and the Attorney General's Office for the effective prosecution and adjudication of Domestic Violent cases reported.

78. DOVVSU has a 'walk-in' system that allows victims and witnesses to directly report cases. The Unit also maintains a dedicated telephone line which is part of the Ghana Police Service crisis response intervention and linked to police and hospitals facilities nationwide.

79. DOVVSU maintains a referral system for victims that includes medical, legal and counseling services. Officers of DOVVSU have been trained to provide basic counseling to clients and traumatized victims.

80. Family Tribunal and Gender-Based Violence Courts have been established to speedily resolve gender-based violence cases and, more importantly to improve on the administration of justice for gender-based violence.

81. Domestic Violence/ Sexual and Gender Based Violence (DV/SGBV) Response Centres have been established in the Greater Accra Region targeted at market women and head porters ("Kayayei") to report cases of violence to the centres. These centres are manned by officers from DOVVSU, CHRAJ, Social Welfare, Education and Health among others.

R. Affirmative action

82. MoGCSP has developed an Affirmative Bill, which seeks to effectively redress social, economic and educational gender imbalance in Ghana, based on historical discrimination against women which impedes sustainable national development. The Bill also promotes the full and active participation of women in public life by providing for a more equitable system of representation in electoral politics and governance in accordance with the laws of country. Currently, the Bill, which is titled Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Bill (2014) received Cabinet approval on 9th July 2016 and is now before Parliament. However, Parliament is receiving further inputs from other stakeholders.

83. MoGCSP launched a Gender Policy at the end of 2015 and has been engaging various Ministries using the policy as a basis to promote gender mainstreaming and equality in their institutions. The policy aims to promote a balance in recruitment, improved gender budgeting and enhance gender sensitive programming. Through consistent engagement with the National and Regional House of Chiefs by various stakeholders, both houses have begun the process to admit and fully integrate queen mothers in daily deliberations and key decision-making; a development that marks a significant step in strengthening women leadership in traditional governance institutions.

84. Pending the passage of an Affirmative Action Bill, the MoGCSP and its partners are engaging with political parties using the tenets of the Bill as a basis to increase the election of women into political office.

85. MoGCSP has also developed the Gender Analysis Framework and Planning Templates to guide District Planning and Coordinating Units (DPCUs) in their planning processes. This framework is to ensure gender inclusion in planning processes for poverty reduction, local economic development, agriculture and infrastructural development at the local level.

86. MoGCSP has instituted gender responsive budgeting in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies with a Gender Responsive Budgeting Technical Working Committee also constituted to oversee gender mainstreaming in sector policies and budgets. Training manuals on mainstreaming gender into planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation at the district levels have also been developed and training of officers is ongoing.

S. Rights of the child

87. Ghana has instituted measures to address corporal punishment in schools and other childcare institutions under the Child Friendly School Programming. The Ghana Education Service (GES) has developed a Code of Conduct for Teachers, which defines physical violence to include corporal punishment. Teachers are consequently prohibited from inflicting any form of corporal punishment on a child. The Code has been presented to the Ghana Education Service Council for consideration and approval.

88. Schools in Ghana generally, have codes of conduct for pupils and students, which prescribe corrective measures when children misbehave. The Head-teachers' Handbook has been revised and teachers are being made aware of likely prosecution when children are caned.

89. Since 2012, Government agencies including Department of Children (DOC), Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and CHRAJ have held community forums aimed at sensitizing the population on the negative effects of corporal punishment on children. The DSW and DOC alone have had interaction with over 250,000 people in about 250 communities across the entire country on violence against children.

90. The Child and Family Welfare Policy which is also aimed at eliminating corporal punishment and other forms of abuse against children in both home and school settings has been developed by MoGCSP. Violence against children is one of the priority areas of concern for the Policy. The key strategic interventions under this Policy to address violence and abuse of children include:

(a) Strengthening of community structures (chiefs, queen-mothers, community leaders, religious leaders and faith-based organizations);

(b) Improvement in child and family welfare services;

(c) Empowering children and young people to understand situations of abuse and violence and report to the relevant authorities;

(d) Empowering families and communities to better understand abuse and violence against children and make better choices to prevent and respond to situations of risk.

91. In 2016, a Justice for Children Policy was introduced to protect juvenile offenders, witnesses and child victims of crimes. The Policy will ensure the protection of children throughout their contact with the justice system and as such make access to justice by children a structure within the judicial system of Ghana.

92. Ghana ratified the ILO Convention No. 138 Concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment in 2011. Ghana recently underwent a peer-review by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) mechanism, which identified gaps in its national plan of action on child labour and the need to amend the National Plan of Action (NPA) on Child Labour. To date more than 2,000 children had been rescued from working in the mining industry. Families are also provided livelihood support to discourage them from sending their children to work in the mines. Community-based child protection

teams have been established within mining communities, which have led to the withdrawal of more than 267 children from mining activities.

93. Ghana has instituted a "Births and Deaths Registration Day" celebration which has been observed annually with the aim of sensitizing the Ghanaian citizenry about the importance and benefits associated with the early registration of births and deaths. The event has been marked with national and regional durbars in selected communities around the country since 2004.

94. Currently, the Birth and Death Registry is undertaking Electronic Registration (E-Registration) and as at September 2016 has achieved 63% of success. It now also undertakes monthly mobile Registration.

T. Persons with disabilities

95. The Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715) was passed on 23rd June, 2006. This is aimed at ensuring that, persons with disability enjoy the rights enshrined in Article 29 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, with the view to improving their quality of life and that of other vulnerable groups. The law also guarantees persons with disability (PWDs) access to public places, free general and specialist medical care, education, employment and transportation among other things. Section 16-23 of Act 715 provides that a parent or guardian of a child with disability must send the child to school.

96. Strategies and policies have been implemented to enable PWDs to participate in the mainstream of the national development process and dedicating budgetary allocations to organize programmes to create awareness about problems confronting PWDs. MoGCSP provide rehabilitation services, livelihood empowerment progamme to Persons with disabilities. PWDs are a key target of Ghana's Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme with more than 52,082 Persons with Disability already benefiting from LEAP. In 2016, over 3000 Persons with Disability were registered on the National Health Insurance Scheme. Action Aid Ghana, a non-governmental organization, in an effort to empower PWDs in the Upper East Region, has been collaborating with Action for Disability and Development (ADD) since 2004, which has culminated in the construction of a resource centre.

97. The 1992 Constitution and the Children's (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act 913) make provision for the welfare of persons with disabilities. The Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715) also makes provision for access of persons with disabilities to public places, employment, and transportation, along with other rights such as family and social life, education for children with disability and their protection against exploitation and discrimination. In response, MoGCSP has developed the Ghana Standards on Accessibility Designs in collaboration with the Ghana Standards Authority to facilitate access for persons with disability.

98. Act 715 also provides for the creation of Persons with Disability (PWD) Desks at employment centres nationwide and established the National Council on Persons with Disability (NCPD) in 2007 to oversee the implementation of some of the national programs for persons with disabilities. The NCPD is currently operating under the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection.

99. The Special Education Division of the Ghana Education Service (SPED) has been set up to ensure equitable educational opportunities for children with special needs and disabilities. There are 13 special schools and 24 units (integrated schools) for children with intellectual disabilities, and these are run by SPED. Some private institutions such as the New Horizon basic school in Accra also assists GES to provide learning opportunities for children with special needs.

100. In furtherance of empowering PWDs, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) is required to allocate three percent of the District Assembly Common Fund to support persons with disabilities and other vulnerable children in every district.

101. The proposed amendment to the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 to make it consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will begin with stakeholder consultations on the content of the new Bill. The process is expected to begin in September, 2017 and end in 2018.

102. Currently, over 3000 PWDs have being registered on the NHIS to access medical care freely.

103. PWDs are beneficiaries of LEAP.

IV. Conclusion

104. In compliance with its international human rights and treaty obligations under Article 40 of the 1992 Constitution, Ghana is committed to the implementation of human rights instruments for which it is a party, and will endeavour to take all necessary steps to promote human rights in Ghana and, in particular to continue to strengthen institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights.

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Compilation on Ghana

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[1, 2]

2. In 2016, the Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[3]

3. The United Nations country team noted that Ghana had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in September 2016.[4]

4. In 2015, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana expedite the ratification of the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.[5] It also recommended that it consider ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),[6] that it ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,[7] the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[8] and that it consider acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[9]

5. The United Nations country team noted that Ghana had pledged to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions at the Ministerial Conference on Statelessness in Abidjan on 23 February 2015.[10] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) recommended that Ghana accede to the 1954 Convention and the 1961 Convention by the end of 2017.[11]

6. In 2014, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention[12] and urged Ghana to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.[13]

7. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment recommended that Ghana ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and expedite the ratification of the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[14]

8. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, recommended that Ghana ratify and/or adopt implementing legislation with regard to the 1926 Slavery Convention, the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention.[15]

9. UNHCR noted that Ghana had signed the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention), but that the Convention had not yet been ratified by Parliament.[16]

10. In 2014, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families invited Ghana to consider acceding to the ILO Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97) and Domestic Workers Convention.[17]

III. National human rights framework[18]

11. The United Nations country team noted that, in January 2017, the President had stated that the constitutional review process, which had started in 2010, would continue in line with his governance reform agenda.[19]

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination[20]

12. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its previous recommendations that Ghana extend free birth registration and issuance of certificates for, at least, children under 5 years of age, and reach universal coverage for registration of children in rural areas, asylum-seeking and refugee children.[21] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[22]

13. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Ghana to ensure that all migrant workers and members of their families within its territory or subject to its jurisdiction enjoyed, without discrimination, the rights recognized in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in accordance with article 7 thereof.[23]

14. The Human Rights Committee was concerned by the stigmatization of and discrimination against persons with albinism. It recommended that Ghana ensure that persons with albinism were protected against discrimination.[24]

15. The United Nations country team stated that some particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, drug users, prisoners and stateless or unregistered people, needed special support and protection in order to enjoy equal rights and hence not to be left behind in the pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other national goals.[25] The Human Rights Committee stated that Ghana should take the steps necessary to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons against all forms of discrimination and violence.[26]

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights[27]

16. The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises recommended that Ghana integrate the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into all relevant policies, including the planned corporate social responsibility policy.[28]

17. On the extractives sector, the Working Group recommended that Ghana review the assessment regulations of its Environmental Protection Agency so as to incorporate impact assessments on all internationally recognized human rights, and require human rights due diligence prior to commencing licensing.[29] It also urged Ghana to consider and implement as a matter of priority measures to combat corruption.[30] The United Nations country team stated that Ghana had increased its capacity for transparency in the management of public affairs by adopting in July 2014 the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan.[31]

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person[32]

18. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana pursue efforts to abolish the death penalty.[33] The Special Rapporteur on torture made similar recommendations, and recommended that Ghana commute all outstanding death sentences to term sentences.[34]

19. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about reports of excessive use of force and unlawful killings by law enforcement and security personnel. It recommended that Ghana establish an independent mechanism to carry out investigations of alleged misconduct by police officers and ensure that the law and practice were in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.[35]

20. The Special Rapporteur on torture recommended that Ghana establish a national preventive mechanism on combating torture and reminded Ghana to introduce the offence of torture in national criminal legislation and strengthen legal safeguards against torture and other ill-treatment.[36] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[37]

21. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana ensure that confessions obtained in violation of article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were not used or accepted by courts under any circumstances and that officials extracting confessions under torture were investigated and prosecuted.[38] The Special Rapporteur on torture made similar recommendations.[39]

22. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana improve the conditions of persons held in custody and address prison overcrowding. It also recommended that Ghana establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture and a mechanism for receiving and processing complaints lodged by detainees.[40]

23. The Special Rapporteur on torture urged Ghana to establish an independent body under the Ministry of Health to improve the quantity and quality of the food available in detention, and to provide detainees with the minimum acceptable amount of space per inmate, separate beds and adequate sanitary conditions.[41] He also recommended that Ghana undertake the comprehensive reforms contemplated by the strategic plan of the Ghana Police Service regarding conditions of detention and the delivery of services in prisons.[42]

24. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports of inadequate treatment of mental health patients in public psychiatric institutions and at poor conditions, overcrowding and low levels of staffing in public psychiatric hospitals. It recommended that Ghana ensure the implementation of the Mental Health Act, including through the adoption of legislative instruments, and the recruitment of qualified mental health professionals.[43] The United Nations country team made similar remarks.[44]

25. The Special Rapporteur on torture recommended that Ghana provide access to legal aid and establish a complaints mechanism and a remedy for cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in psychiatric hospitals and that it prohibit non-consensual treatment in psychiatric institutions and prayer camps.[45]

26. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the existence of unregistered private "prayer camps" to deal with illness, particularly mental illness, which operated with little oversight and no State regulation.[46] It recommended that Ghana prohibit non-consensual psychiatric treatment, such as forced medication and confinement.[47]

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law[48]

27. The United Nations country team indicated that the United Nations was working with the Government to strengthen the functioning of key institutions within the legal and justice sector, to reduce inefficiencies, expand accessibility, improve the quality of services, and overcome delayed dispensation of justice especially for the vulnerable. Improvements in those areas would improve public confidence.[49]

28. The Special Rapporteur on torture urged Ghana to guarantee the right to a lawyer in all circumstances, to ensure that all detained persons were granted the possibility of challenging the lawfulness of their detention[50] and to ensure that complaint procedures and mechanisms were adequate.[51] He recommended that courts be obliged to launch ex officio investigations whenever there were reasonable grounds to suspect torture or ill-treatment,[52] and that Ghana ensure that victims obtained redress and fair compensation for violations of their rights.[53]

29. The United Nations country team indicated that homosexual sex between consenting adults had not been decriminalized in Ghana.[54] The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana ensure that sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex were not punishable by law.[55] The United Nations country team stated that sexual minorities often chose to avoid the justice system, even to bring charges of assault or harassment or of police brutality, out of fear of punishment or outing. Abuse of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex prisoners was a concern, exacerbated by prison overcrowding and reluctance to report abuse for fear of reprisals and further stigmatization.[56]

30. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Ghana to investigate, prosecute and punish all acts of trafficking in persons, and deal expeditiously with cases filed against traffickers and human smugglers.[57]

31. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana ensure access to courts and provide adequate funding to the Legal Aid Scheme.[58]

32. The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises recommended that Ghana ensure that the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice had adequate resources to implement its mandate and to serve as an effective alternative dispute resolution mechanism for addressing business impacts on human rights.[59]

33. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana conduct awareness-raising programmes to increase women's legal literacy and eliminate the stigmatization of women who claimed their rights.[60]

34. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Ghana to ensure that migrant workers and members of their families, including those in an irregular situation, had equal opportunities to nationals to file complaints and obtain redress in the courts.[61]

35. The Special Rapporteur on slavery, including its causes and consequences, urged Ghana to amend the Criminal Code to ensure protection from sexual exploitation of all children without exception, and adopt effective legal measures against the use, offering or procurement of children for illicit activities.[62]

36. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Ghana to bring its juvenile justice system into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant standards.[63]

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[64]

37. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Ghana to introduce a freedom of information law and decriminalize defamation, placing it within a Civil Code in accordance with international standards.[65]

38. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana expedite the enactment of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Bill establishing a quota of 40 per cent for the representation of women in Parliament and public administration.[66] The United Nations country team indicated that socioeconomic and cultural issues and a lack of accountability within political parties were among the key challenges to increasing women's political participation.[67]

39. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Ghana guarantee to migrant workers and members of their families the right to form and be a member of the executive bodies of associations and unions for the promotion and protection of their interests.[68] It also encouraged Ghana to ensure the implementation of the right to vote for Ghanaian migrant workers residing abroad.[69]

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery[70]

40. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Ghana to enforce the Human Trafficking Act and the Immigration Amendment Act, and allocate sufficient resources to combat trafficking in persons, human smuggling and other irregular migration.[71] The Special Rapporteur on slavery,[72] the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women[73] and the Committee on the Rights of the Child[74] made similar recommendations.

41. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations encouraged the Government to allocate the financial resources necessary for the effective functioning of the labour inspection system.[75]

5. Right to privacy and family life[76]

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana adopt expeditiously the Property Rights of Spouses Bill, 2009, so that equal distribution of property rights covered women, regardless to the type of marriage or de facto union.[77]

43. The Committee recommended that Ghana ensure that all religious and customary marriages were systematically registered.[78] The Special Rapporteur on slavery made a similar recommendation.[79]

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[80]

44. The ILO Committee of Experts asked the Government to take the necessary measures to amend sections 10 (b) and 68 of the Labour Act of 2003, in order to give full legislative expression to the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value, and to provide information on any progress made in that regard.[81]

2. Right to social security[82]

45. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Ghana ensure that all migrant workers and members of their families were able to subscribe to a social security scheme and enter into social security agreements.[83]

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana provide a regulatory framework for the informal sector, with a view to providing women with access to social security and to basic safety services.[84]

3. Right to an adequate standard of living[85]

47. The United Nations country team indicated that the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty cash transfer social security programme covered families with pregnant women and infants especially. Despite its impressive expansion, the programme only covered one in eight poor households that had very little access to social protection. Poverty had seen a sharp reduction in recent years, although progress had slowed substantially.[86] The United Nations country team stated that the right to housing and protection of rights of urban slum dwellers was an ongoing challenge in Ghana, with growing rates of urbanization. Informality and inequality had intensified in cities, resulting in the growth of populations living in slums, and the rate of urbanization continued to outpace expansion of basic public services. Urban development and housing policies had been adopted with attention currently turning to their implementation, which provided opportunities to focus attention on environmental resilience and on human rights protection for all urban residents. Recent efforts in Accra on urban flood control and waterway management had not taken fully into account the right to adequate housing, resulting in some forced evictions without effective notice and displacements without adequate tracing mechanisms and resettlement plans affecting urban minorities.[87]

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the widespread poverty and illiteracy among rural women and their exclusion from decision-making processes. It recommended that Ghana ensure the removal of obstacles to landownership by women and the enforcement of the land and property rights of women by national courts.[88]

49. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana strengthen measures for fulfilling children's rights in the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan, including by holding targeted consultations with families, children and civil society organizations, and that it accelerate the expansion of the national cash transfer programme.[89]

4. Right to health[90]

50. The United Nations country team stated that national budget constraints and procurement challenges were constricting health service delivery and jeopardizing the quality and quantity of health care, resulting also in shortages of essential HIV, tuberculosis and malaria commodities.[91]

51. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana adopt a sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents, and develop a policy to protect the rights of pregnant teenagers, adolescent mothers and their children and combat discrimination against them.[92] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made similar recommendations.[93]

52. The Human Rights Committee, [94] the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women [95] and the Committee on the Rights of the Child [96] recommended that Ghana increase efforts to reduce maternal mortality resulting from unsafe abortions.

53. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana operationalize the national newborn strategy and action plan, reduce mortality rates by improving prenatal care and preventing communicable diseases and allocate resources to health services, particularly child health and nutrition.[97]

54. The United Nations country team indicated that, reportedly, people with mental illnesses were often treated as if they had no free will and that the practice of leaving family members at prayer camps (or so-called "witch camps") continued. There continued to be reports of abuse and exercise of unreasonable force in prayer camps and in psychiatric hospitals and several cases of the police using unreasonable force and of prisoners not being assigned psychiatric assessments.[98] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Ghana to collect disaggregated data about women's mental health and include in its forthcoming periodic report information on the progress made in implementing the Mental Health Act, 2012.[99]

55. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana address the incidences of drug use by children and adolescents by, inter alia, providing children and adolescents with information on substance abuse, and develop youth-friendly drug dependence treatment.[100] The Committee remained concerned about the high prevalence rate of HIV and the high rate of child mortality due to AIDS, and recommended that Ghana improve treatment for mothers living with HIV/AIDS and their children.[101]

5. Right to education[102]

56. The United Nations country team indicated that Ghana had achieved the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education and that improving education quality was a priority. The lack of appropriate sanitation facilities in the majority of schools had contributed to the school dropout rate. Overall, the lack of affordable education opportunities for adolescent girls was a key causal factor of early marriage. The United Nations country team commended the commitment of the Government to extend access to free senior high school for all students starting from September 2017, a measure that would require substantial investments in teacher training, school facilities, equipment and the curriculum to increase the quality and availability of education at that level. The United Nations country team insisted that implementation of that policy should include refugees.[103]

57. UNESCO stated that children continued to engage in hazardous labour, which affected their ability to enjoy their right to education. Ghana should be encouraged to further address and eliminate harmful practices, including but not limited to child labour and child marriage, and to continue to raise public awareness on their negative consequences and on the importance of education. National efforts towards increasing educational opportunities for all and addressing the quality of education, in line with Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals on quality education, needed support to generate long-term improvements.[104]

58. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that a significant proportion of children living in rural areas, children with disabilities, children from poor households, working children, orphaned children and children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS were deprived of their right to education. It recommended that Ghana take targeted measures to ensure free primary education for them.[105] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made similar recommendations.[106]

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women[107]

59. The United Nations country team stated that positive institutional developments for gender equality had included the adoption of the Gender Policy in 2015 and cabinet approval of the Affirmative Action Bill, which was before Parliament. It had been working with the relevant ministries on the implementation plans to ensure that the legislation achieved the desired impact.[108] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requested that Ghana adopt its Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Bill and ensure that it included a definition of discrimination in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[109]

60. UNESCO stated that several important issues, including forced and early marriage, early pregnancy and other harmful practices disproportionally affecting women, needed to be adequately addressed by Ghana.[110]

61. The Special Rapporteur on slavery urged Ghana to adopt into law a spousal property regime consistent with international standards and the equal rights of spouses, as a matter of priority.[111] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[112]

62. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Ghana to ensure the effective implementation of the 2007 Domestic Violence Act, including by adopting enabling legislation, and to increase the resources for the implementation of the National Policy.[113]

63. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about the persistence of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, *trokosi* (ritual servitude), forced early marriage, witchcraft accusations and polygamy. It recommended that Ghana strengthen its awareness-raising and education programmes, prevent and eradicate harmful traditional practices and ensure that victims had access to remedies, protection and rehabilitation mechanisms.[114] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women[115] and the Special Rapporteur on slavery expressed similar concerns.[116]

64. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the persistence of violence against women, including rape, sexual harassment in school, in the workplace and in the public sphere, early and forced marriages, domestic violence and female genital mutilation. It called upon Ghana to intensify efforts to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women and girls by ensuring that complaints were investigated and that perpetrators were brought to justice.[117] The Special Rapporteur on slavery made similar recommendations.[118]

65. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the high number of cases of violence against girls and older women alleged to be witches, who sought refuge in so-called "witch camps", often under difficult living conditions. It called upon Ghana to ensure the swift closure of all remaining witch camps and that alleged witches and girls in such camps were provided with adequate rehabilitation, safe reinsertion into their communities or with alternative housing, livelihood options, high-quality education and vocational training.[119] The Committee on the Rights of the Child made similar recommendations.[120]

2. Children[121]

66. The United Nations country team noted that Ghana still had very high rates of violence, abuse and exploitation of children. Adolescent girls continued to face risks of child marriage and adolescent boys were increasingly participating in unsafe migration.[122]

67. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its previous recommendation that Ghana amend all legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment, and strengthen awareness-raising and education programmes for preventing and combating corporal punishment.[123] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[124] The Special Rapporteur on torture also made similar recommendations and urged Ghana to amend the Children's Act (1988) to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings.[125]

68. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its previous recommendation that Ghana establish a national database on all cases of domestic violence against children and child abuse and undertake a comprehensive assessment of the phenomenon.[126]

69. The same Committee was concerned about the prevalence of the *trokosi* practice, especially in rural and traditional communities, and the fact that no cases had been reported and investigated. It urged Ghana to prevent and eliminate the practice, in particular to ensure the immediate release of children subjected to the practice, and ensure that cases of *trokosi* were investigated, protective mechanisms to safeguard children were established and all victims of the practice had access to social, medical and rehabilitative services and legal redress.[127] The Special Rapporteur on slavery made similar recommendations.[128]

70. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned about the fact that sexual exploitation of children, particularly commercial sexual exploitation, was growing. It recommended that Ghana establish mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to ensure mandatory reporting of cases of child sexual exploitation and amend legislation to ensure that all children subject to any form of sexual exploitation were treated as victims and not subject to criminal sanctions.[129]

71. The same Committee recommended that Ghana ensure the implementation of the legal prohibition of hazardous child labour and mining work for anyone under 18, and ensure the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, including the application of high penalties foreseen in legislation to those who exploited children.[130] The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises[131] and the ILO Committee of Experts[132] made similar recommendations. The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations and urged Ghana to eliminate child labour, in particular by strengthening public awareness-raising campaigns in that regard. Moreover, it recommended that Ghana investigate cases of the worst forms of child labour, bring alleged perpetrators to justice and ensure that all victims were adequately protected, assisted, rehabilitated and compensated.[133]

72. The Special Rapporteur on slavery urged Ghana to mandate a special commission to investigate the dire situation of children and young people, including the underlying issues of poverty, child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, early marriage and pregnancies, and the consequences of that situation for the human development of the country, with the aim of reducing the exploitation of children and child slavery.[134] The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned about the absence of national data available on the prevalence of children living and working in the streets. It recommended that Ghana undertake an in-depth study on the root causes and scope of such phenomena and develop a national strategy and national plan of action to support children in street situations and to address socioeconomic disadvantages and other root causes of vulnerability of children in such situations, as well as the violence they sometimes faced, including at the hands of law enforcement officials.[135]

3. Persons with disabilities[136]

73. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern the stigmatization and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, which contributed to severe deficiencies in mental health-care facilities in Ghana.[137]

74. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was seriously concerned that children with disabilities were often exposed to degrading treatment, particularly in some prayer camps.[138]

75. The United Nations country team expressed its appreciation that the Government had launched in 2016 its inclusive education policy with a specific focus on children with disabilities.[139]

4. Minorities and indigenous peoples[140]

76. The United Nations country team stated that, in Ghana, as across Western Africa, it was increasingly difficult to ensure human rights protection of nomadic pastoralists, largely of Fulani ethnic origin. There were increasing incidents of conflict and violence between herders and farmers.[141]

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[142]

77. UNHCR expressed its concern regarding the existing four-year renewable residence permit, which did not provide effective legal solutions for refugees opting to remain in Ghana. It stressed the importance of seeking indefinite residence status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 2000 Immigration Act. Currently, there were legal, administrative and practical barriers that impeded the acquisition of nationality and indefinite residence status. UNHCR recommended that the Government waive the

requirement that a person hold a national passport as a prerequisite for obtaining indefinite residence status.[147]

78. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana expedite the revision of the legal refugee framework and enact legislation in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[148]

79. The Committee on Migrant Workers was concerned about the increasing number of expulsions of migrant workers and the absence of information regarding the possibility of challenging expulsion orders. The Committee recommended that Ghana provide updated information on the number of expulsions and the procedures used, and ensure that the minimum guarantees enshrined in the Convention on Migrant Workers were assured with regard to criminal or administrative charges against migrant workers and members of their families.[149]

80. UNHCR noted that the 1992 Refugee Act did not adequately reflect all the minimal asylum procedural safeguards to ensure fair refugee status determination procedures for asylum seekers. It urged Ghana to ensure a comprehensive review of the Act, in particular inserting provisions related to procedural safeguards for asylum seekers.[146] The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana review and amend the Act to ensure that the needs of asylum-seeking children were considered during the refugee status determination procedures. It also recommended that it conduct personal interviews in a child-appropriate manner, take into consideration specific procedural safeguards for unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children and seek technical assistance from UNHCR in that regard.[147]

81. The Committee on Migrant Workers noted with concern information on cases of violence, abductions and deaths in countries of transit used by Ghanaian migrant workers on their way to destination countries. It recommended that Ghana enter into agreements with the countries of employment and transit of Ghanaian migrant workers to better protect their rights and facilitate the provision of consular and other services.[148]

82. As the lack of a school canteens negatively affected attendance, learning achievement, concentration and behaviour, UNHCR commended the approval of refugee camp schools being included in the national Ghana School Feeding Programme as of January 2017. It encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to ensure that refugee children and asylum-seeking children enjoyed education.[149]

83. UNHCR indicated that inter-ethnic conflicts and violence due to disputes over natural resources and chieftaincy were the main causes of internal displacement in Ghana. In practice, the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons focused on material rights, through the provision of relief, without ensuring respect for political rights. The Kampala Convention, which had yet to be ratified by Ghana, was a legally binding regional instrument ensuring protection and assistance of internally displaced persons within the country. It contained an explicit provision on equality and non-discrimination and specifically obliged States parties to protect women and children from gender-based violence, including sexual slavery and trafficking in persons.[150]

6. Stateless persons

84. The United Nations country team indicated that Ghana had developed a national action plan to end statelessness that had been pending approval since February 2016.[151]

85. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana prevent statelessness and guarantee the fundamental rights of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness through law and practice.[152]

86. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana review the 2000 Citizenship Act and other legislation relating to nationality to bring them into line with international standards on prevention, reduction and protection of stateless children.[153]

Notes

[1] Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Ghana will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/GHIndex.aspx.
[2] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.1-123.7, 123.11, 125.1-125.5, 125.16, 125.50 and 125.86.
[3] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 20.
[4] United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Ghana, p. 5.
[5] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, para. 46.
[6] Ibid., para. 62.
[7] Ibid., para. 71.
[8] Ibid., para. 72.
[9] Ibid., para. 32.
[10] Country team submission, p. 10.
[11] UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Ghana, p. 5.
[12] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, para. 35.
[13] Ibid., para. 49.
[14] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, paras. 87, 101 (c) and 102 (a).
[15] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 76.
[16] UNHCR submission, p. 4.
[17] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 11.
[18] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.8-123.13, 124.1, 125.6-125.11, 125.16, 125.23-125.27, 125.44, 125.52-125.53, 125.59, 125.62-125.63, 125.84, 125.86-125.87, 125.89 and 125.91.
[19] Country team submission, p. 2.
[20] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.18, 123.23, 124.1-124.2, 124.8-124.9, 125.60-125.61, 125.71 and 125.75.
[21] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 29-30.
[22] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 38.
[23] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 20-21.
[24] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 13-14.
[25] Country team submission, p. 10. See also B. Orlandini and C. Adablah, "Ghana Common Country Assessment" (2016), p. 31. Available from http://gh.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/ghana/docs/Delivering%20as%20One/UNCT-GH-Ghana-CCA-2016.pdf.
[26] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 43-44.
[27] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.64-125.65, 125.83 and 125.91.
[28] See A/HRC/26/25/Add.5, para. 76 (a) and (g).
[29] Ibid., para. 80 (a)-(d).
[30] Ibid., para. 76 (h).
[31] Country team submission, p. 4.
[32] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.8, 123.11, 123.19-123.20, 123.22, 124.3-124.7, 125.1, 125.3-125.5, 125.15-125.18, 125.45, 125.59 and 125.90.
[33] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 19-20.
[34] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 101 (a)-(b).
[35] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 21-22.
[36] See A/HRC/31/57/Add.2, para. 76.
[37] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 25-26.
[38] Ibid.
[39] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 95 (b)-(c).
[40] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 30.
[41] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 100 (b) and (d).
[42] See A/HRC/31/57/Add.2, para. 76.
[43] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 27-28.
[44] Country team submission, p. 7.
[45] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, paras. 104 (g) and 105 (c).
[46] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 27.
[47] Ibid., paras. 28 (d).
[48] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.11, 123.21, 124.1, 124.3-124.5, 124.7-124.9, 125.6, 125.10, 125.20-125.21, 125.29-125.40, 125.47, 125.49-125.50, 125.52 and 125.57-

125.59.
[45] Country team submission, p. 4.
[46] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 96 (b) and (d).
[47] See A/HRC/31/57/Add.2, para. 76.
[48] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 96 (g).
[49] Ibid., para. 106 (c).
[50] Country team submission, p. 2.
[51] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 43-44.
[52] Country team submission, p. 3.
[53] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 45 (b).
[54] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 42.
[55] See A/HRC/26/25/Add.5, para. 77 (c).
[56] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, para. 15.
[57] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 23.
[58] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, paras. 98-99.
[59] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 69-70.
[60] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.12 and 125.62-125.63.
[61] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Ghana, paras. 18-19.
[62] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 20-21.
[63] Country team submission, p. 3.
[64] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 34-35.
[65] Ibid., paras. 36-37.
[66] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.5, 125.46-125.49, 125.51-125.52 and 125.60.
[67] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 45.
[68] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 86.
[69] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 28-29.
[70] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 67-68.
[71] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3242218.
[72] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 124.8-124.9.
[73] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 40-41.
[74] Ibid.
[75] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, paras. 110 and 113.
[76] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.6 and 125.65.
[77] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::::P13100_COMMENT_ID:3127001.
[78] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 124.8-124.9, 125.30, 125.40, 125.64-125.66, 125.68 and 125.82.
[79] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 29.
[80] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 34-35.
[81] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.66, 125.82 and 125.91.
[82] Country team submission, p. 6.
[83] Ibid., p. 7.
[84] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 38-39.
[85] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 55-56.
[86] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.45, 125.64, 125.66-125.74, 125.82 and 125.90.
[87] Country team submission, p. 7.
[88] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 51-52.
[89] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 36-37.
[90] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 23-24.
[91] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 36-37.
[92] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 49-50.
[93] Ibid.
[94] Country team submission, p. 7.
[95] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, para. 37.
[96] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 51-52.
[97] Ibid., paras. 53-54.
[98] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.14, 125.28, 125.55, 125.64, 125.74-125.83.
[99] Country team submission, p. 8.
[100] See UNESCO submission, paras. 15-17.

[96] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 97-98.
[97] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 32-33.
[98] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.5, 123.10, 123.16-123.18, 125.10-125.14, 125.19-125.45, 125.48, 125.67 and 125.78-125.79.
[99] Country team submission, p. 3.
[100] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, para. 13.
[101] See UNESCO submission, para. 13.
[102] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 109.
[103] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 11-12.
[104] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 26-27.
[105] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 17-18.
[106] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 40-41.
[107] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, paras. 107-108.
[108] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 26-27.
[109] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 111.
[110] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 24-25.
[111] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 35-38.
[112] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.1-123.5, 123.17, 123.20, 123.23, 124.7, 125.1-125.2, 125.10, 125.23, 125.27-125.28, 125.48-125.56, 125.59-125.61 and 125.80.
[113] Country team submission, p. 3.
[114] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 35-36.
[115] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 35-36.
[116] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 102 (b)-(c).
[117] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, para. 36.
[118] Ibid., paras. 39-40.
[119] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 108.
[120] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 63-64.
[121] Ibid., paras. 61-62.
[122] See A/HRC/26/25/Add.5, para. 81 (c)-(d).
[123] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID:3242590[LO and www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3247758.
[124] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 32.
[125] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 87.
[126] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 65-66.
[127] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.2 and 125.64-125.90.
[128] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 27.
[129] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 25-26.
[130] Country team submission, p. 9.
[131] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/22/6, para. 124.2.
[132] Country team submission, p. 9.
[133] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/22/6, para. 124.2.
[134] UNHCR submission, p. 4.
[135] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 34.
[136] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 24-25.
[137] UNHCR submission, p. 5.
[138] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 59-60.
[139] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 40-41.
[140] UNHCR submission, pp. 2-3.
[141] Ibid., p. 4.
[142] Country team submission, p. 10.
[143] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 34.
[144] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, para. 52.

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Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Ghana*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 24 stakeholders' submissions[1] to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[2]

2. JS8 recommended Ghana to expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and on a Communications Procedure.[3]

3. JS15 recommended that Ghana ratify all International Labour Organization Conventions (ILO).[4] JS5 recommended ratifying the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 169 by September 2018.[5]

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

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B. National human rights framework*

4. JS8 recommended Ghana to amend Islamic law CAP 129 to harmonize it with the Children's Act 1998, the Domestic Violence Act and the Juvenile Justice Act in order to ensure that child marriage is strictly prohibited and criminalized.[7]

5. Noting that at the UPR process in 2012, Ghana supported recommendations 125.7, 125.8 and 125.9[8], JS11 stated that some of the challenges confronting the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) include lack of demonstrable political will for the enforcement of its decisions, lack of statutory power to verify the accuracy of assets declared by public officials, lack of financial autonomy and inadequate financial resources.[9] JS11 recommended that the Government strengthen the CHRAJ by granting it the financial autonomy needed, in particular, to effectively deal with corruption.[9] JS13 made similar statements and recommendations.[10]

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

6. ACILA stated that per UPR 2012, despite Ghana's support to a recommendation[11] to intensify efforts to complete the alignment of the national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute and the subsequent drafting of the International Criminal Court Bill in 2016, the bill has ultimately not been passed and the domestication of the Rome Statute remains a pending issue.[12] HRW stated that Ghana should further demonstrate its commitment to the International Criminal Court by implementing the treaty through national legislation, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the Court.[13]

7. ACILA also stated that per UPR 2012, numerous recommendations were made to Ghana to ratify, implement or bring its domestic laws in compliance with its international law obligations, in addition to ratifying, before the end of the third UPR cycle, those Conventions to which Ghana is a signatory[14]; ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty[15], ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and, in this context, establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture as provided by this instrument,[16] among other recommendations.[17]

1. Cross cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination[18]

8. JS3 noted with concern that homophobia directed to lesbians, gays, bisexual, and queer/questioning people is highly prevalent in Ghana. For transgender, transsexual and intersex people, the social climate is such that individuals keep their gender identity almost completely hidden. Additionally, those who speak out about human rights violations perpetrated against people that are LGBTQI are also targets of homophobia.[19]

9. HRW stated that the criminalization of adult consensual same-sex conduct, in terms of section 104(1) (b) of the Criminal Code, which prohibits 'unnatural carnal knowledge' (widely interpreted to mean same-sex conduct) contributed to a climate in which violence and discrimination against LGBT people were widespread. It further noted that the law does not prevent discrimination against LGBT people including in access to health services,

[1] A/HRC/22/6 - Para. 125.

employment, housing, education, and facilitated blackmail and extortion.[20] JS10 expressed similar concerns and further noted that social stigma and religious prejudice were two major causes behind systematic violence and discrimination against LGBT-persons.[21] HRAC made a similar statement and further noted that because of the extreme prejudice and discrimination they face, men who have sex with men were often not vocal about their status.[22]

10. JS3 noted with concern that Chapter 6 Section 104 of Ghana's Criminal Code (1960) is used to threaten, arrest and punish individuals who do have, or have been perceived to have, engaged in same-sex sexual activity.[23] JS14 noted with concern that individuals in Ghana are often arrested on the basis of conduct relating to their sexual orientation, even though their actions are not violating other Ghanaian laws.[24]

11. JS3 regretted the severe lack of protection from physical attacks against LGBTQI individuals in Ghana[25] and recommended that the Government take measures to prevent further hate crimes, hate speech, and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and to ensure that any crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity are promptly investigated, prosecuted and punished, and that the victims are provided appropriate remedy.[26]

2. Civil and Political Rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person[27]

12. JS1 noted that Ghana was abolitionist for the death penalty in practice and has not executed anyone since 1993. However, courts continued to pronounce death sentences and in 2014 the Government rejected the recommendation of the Constitutional Review Implementation Committee to abolish the death penalty, or to adopt a formal interim moratorium on executions, or to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[28]

13. JS5 noted with concern that Article 13 of Ghana's Constitution, which guarantees the right to life, also provides for much wider grounds for the use of lethal force than is permissible under international standards[29] and that there is no independent mechanism to investigate police abuses.[30] JS1 made a similar statement.[31]

14. MFWA noted that given the number of incidents of violations perpetrated by security forces, it remained unclear if measures taken by the Government to combat police violations, including brutality against journalists and others exercising their free expression rights had been effective or even adequate.[32] Noting that Police brutality in addressing conflict between a community and a mining company resulted in the death of a community protestor,[33] JS5 recommended that the Government integrate respect for human rights in the operating protocols of security forces in responding to cases of illegal logging, mining or social conflicts between investors and locals.[34]

15. JS1 stated that the Ghana Prison Service revealed that conditions at the country's prisons have seen little improvement, despite countless appeals. It further noted that there was an extreme level of overcrowding, resulting in a number of serious violations, including inadequate nutrition, insufficient access to medical care, poor sanitation, personal security and the absence of rehabilitation services.[35]

16. HRAC stated that sex workers experience violence from their clients, the public, and the Police. Sex workers operate under a continually "potentially violent environment" and were predisposed to dangers as there are no proven security mechanisms in place to screen dangerous clients.[36] HRAC recommended that Ghana address unfair legal and personal punishment of sex workers versus the punishment of clients, and institute legal protection for sex workers against the violence and threats of violence to which they are subjected.[37]

Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law[38]

17. JS11 stated that corruption continues to be a drawback to the fight against poverty and that, according to the Ghana Integrity Initiative, the local chapter of the Transparency International, corruption was one of the many reasons Ghana was unable to achieve some of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).[39]

18. JS1 was concerned that there was no independent mechanism to investigate police abuses[40] and recommended establishing an independent Police Complaint Commission to deal with police brutality cases and provide an effective remedy to victims.[41] JS1 was also concerned about the existing lack of awareness about legal rights, long delays in proceedings, and woeful underrepresentation of lawyers at the Legal Aid Scheme.[42]

19. JS5 noted with concern that the economic, social and cultural rights of communities suffering from the operations of mining companies are difficult to enforce through the courts. Practical obstacles include the costs of pursuing a claim and the difficulty of obtaining affordable legal assistance, as well as the weak capacity of judges and local courts to adjudicate matters relating to business impacts on human rights.[43]

20. JS5 stated that the Minerals and Mining Act 2006 (Act 703) empowers the Government to resolve conflicts on compensation payment between mining communities and mining companies. This requirement prejudices communities suffering from the operations of mining companies and does not provide for any relief to the community while the conflict with the mining companies is being handled.[44]

21. JS1 stated with concern that the Criminal Procedure Code Act 30 of 1960, which provides for children in conflict with the law to be treated differently from adults, had major shortcomings. It further added that Ghana's Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) reported that many juveniles were perishing in adult prisons in the country.[45]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[46]

22. JS16 regretted that the Right to Information (RTI) Bill had not yet been passed by the Parliament, despite Ghana's acceptance of the recommendations[47] made by Austria and Canada in 2012.[48] JS7 made a similar remark and recommended that Ghana pass the RTI Bill as soon as possible.[49] JS16 added that despite the welcome removal of criminal libel and seditious libel provisions from the country's Criminal Code (1960, Act 29) in 2001, there were several other pieces of legislation that restrict freedom of expression, such as the application of contempt of court laws in several instances.[50]

23. MFWA noted that the Government generally respects freedom of expression and apparently does not endorse or incite crimes against journalists or against others exercising their free expression rights. Instead, government authorities have made public statements recognising the importance of journalists in promoting democracy.[51] However, the Government did not make any strong and significant commitments to ensure the investigation and prosecution of crimes against journalists and others exercising their free expression rights. MFWA further noted that Ghana's lack of political will to fight impunity for crimes against journalists had the potential to embolden individuals commit further violations.[52] JS16 recommended that Ghana ensure that media freedom remains robust by protecting media actors' freedom of expression in law, policy and practice, as per Chapter 12 of Ghana's Constitution, under Articles 162 and 163, which fully guarantees freedom and independence of the media and give journalists the full protection they need to practice.[53]

24. JS7 reported allegations of violation of freedom of speech by state and non-state actors without the State investigating the incidents or providing an effective remedy. The

reported violations were mostly in the form of physical attacks, arrests and detentions, threats and censorship. JS7 concluded that violence perpetrated by state actors to repress freedom of opinion and expression was particularly disturbing[54] and recommended that the Government investigate, prosecute, and sanction all attacks on journalists and guarantee adequate protection and security for them, so they can effectively perform their duties without any fear of victimization.[55] MFWA recommended that the Government conduct immediate and effective investigations into all violations of free expression rights, particularly the use of excessive of force by security forces.[56]

3. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[57]

25. JS15 noted that the greatest challenge facing the youth in Ghana has been the lack of employment opportunities. In the last three decades, the Government has often focused its attention on the stabilization of the economy and in particular the achievement of single digit inflation rate rather than employment. This policy direction has often been reflected in budget statements with little attention to measures to create or help create employment on the scale required for a significant poverty reduction.[58] JS15 therefore recommended that Ghana conduct, in the nearest possible time, a comprehensive survey highlighting the high unemployment rate in the country, to implement effective measures to solve the problem and to review the Labour Act, which has been active for over 10 years without review.[59]

Right to an adequate standard of living[60]

26 JS13 noted with concern that corruption in local land administration and at grand level between investors and local elite favors "land grabs" and State capture, and marginalizes local populations.[61]

Right to health[62]

27. JS10 noted with concern that most of the abortions performed in Ghana are still unsafe, representing the second highest cases of maternal mortality and one of the main causes of long-term maternal morbidity in the country. Remaining legal restrictions, lack of accessibility and affordability, lack of access to information and contraception, increasing rates of unwanted/untimed pregnancies, together with stigma and social rejection of premarital sexual activity, among others have been identified as major causes of unsafe abortion. Lack of knowledge and stigma play a major role in women's reluctance to seek post-abortion care, particularly among young women.[63]

28. ADF recommended that Ghana acknowledge that the legalization of abortion in a country with high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity and problems with access to proper health care, does not make pregnancy and childbirth any safer.[64] ADF also recommended that Ghana improve the health care infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training, resources devoted to maternal health with a focus on safely getting mothers and babies through pregnancy and childbirth, and health-care access for women from poor and/or rural backgrounds.[65]

29. JS13 noted with concern that corruption is particularly detrimental in health care delivery in Ghana. The direct impact is visible: a poor policy decision can result in unequal access, unnecessary trauma and ultimately higher mortality rates for patients seeking care. Furthermore, bribery, favoritism and extra fees for drugs and treatment that are routinely demanded, prevent poor communities from accessing health care.[66] JS9 recommended that the National Health Insurance Scheme be financially supported to be able to provide basic healthcare to mothers, babies and the elder.[67]

30. GCNH noted that there were no explicit laws on adolescent reproductive health in Ghana and that there were different domestic legal provisions covering children and adolescents' rights.[68]

31. JS14 noted with concern that fear of being stigmatized continued to discourage persons from being tested for HIV and those who test positive, from seeking timely care. HIV-positive persons face discrimination in employment and are often forced to leave their jobs or houses.[69]

32. HRAC stated that sex workers were at great and heightened risk for contracting HIV[70] and recommended that Ghana improve health service delivery to target sex workers and their non-paying partners regarding HIV and other health problems.[71] JS9 recommended that the Government ensure readily available anti-retroviral drugs and stock pile of all tuberculosis and HIV treatment systems in all hospitals and clinics in the country, in order to regulate shortages, control medicine theft and high pricing of stocks.[72]

33. JS12 was concerned about the low percentage of the total demand of family planning due to the lack of understanding of contraceptive methods and the inaccessibility and/or unaffordability of family planning services. JS12 therefore recommended Ghana to enact a legal provision to regulate family planning services and to educate communities in order to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate.[73]

34. JS12 was also concerned that abortion law in Ghana is not fully interpreted making the provision of abortion concerning physical and mental health care unclear, and that abortion care services throughout the country are inaccessible due to health provider bias.[74]

35. JS9 recommended that Ghana ensure that the Parliament passes the legislative instrument for the implementation of the Mental Health Act to foster the regulation of the activities of prayer camp operators and other faith based healers to effectively protect the right to health.[75]

36. JS5 stated that illegal mining has created an environment and a natural resource crisis in Ghana. Illegal mining is carried out in forest landscapes, agricultural land and on river bodies. As a result, water bodies have been silted, and seriously polluted with heavy metals such as cyanide and other toxins. Illegal mining is also associated with hazardous child labour. Efforts by the police to arrest and prosecute offenders have been ineffective.[76]

Right to education[77]

37. JS10 stated that there was no official policy for providing youth with the necessary knowledge and skills to face serious challenges preventing them from reaching their full developmental potential, namely: teenage pregnancy and childbearing rates, girls' school drop-out due to pregnancy, teen marriage, teenage unsafe abortion, maternal mortality and harmful customary practices.[78]

38. JS3 recommended Ghana to provide clear national guidelines to prevent discrimination directed towards students on any grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity and provide mechanisms for effective redress whenever a student faces such discrimination, including legal action unhampered by limitations based on financial capacity of the child, nor the family.[79]

39. JS13 regretted that parents and guardians still face a significant financial burden due to the Government's inability to provide the necessary resources and infrastructure to support education, leaving children from poor households out of school[80] and recommended that Ghana reduce the burden of education on parents by implementing the free education programme as stipulated in the country's 2017 budget.[81]

40. FMSI was concerned about the extent to which the right to free, compulsory universal basic education policy was being faithfully implemented, with reports suggesting that Ghana's education system was neither truly free, nor compulsory.[82] FMSI recommended that Ghana take necessary measures to ensure that primary schooling is completely free for children to attend.[83]

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women[84]

41. JS5 noted with concern that there was gender disparity in the access, ownership and control of land and other natural resources. Even where women had access to land, it is often men who had the authority or control and the tenure right to dispose of the land without regard to women's concerns and rights.[85]

42. JS14 noted that while the Constitution and family, labour, property, nationality and inheritance laws provide for the same legal status and rights for women as for men, traditional practices and societal norms often deny women their statutory entitlements to inheritance and property, a legally registered marriage with associated legal rights, and the right to adequate resources to exercise custody of children. Women also continued to experience discrimination in access to employment, wage and housing.[86]

43. JS6 stated with concern that the Property Rights of Spouses Bill which seeks to provide a more equitable distribution of property acquired during a marriage between spouses, was proposed, drafted and placed before Parliament for consideration and passage into law, but was not passed before the closure of the last Parliament.[87]

44. JS10 reported that in relation to the persistence of discrimination, rape, sexual harassment at school, the workplace and the public sphere, early and forced marriages, domestic violence and female genital mutilation, the current legislation and policies were deemed insufficient. Likewise, impunity in these regards was still one of the major challenges to overcome, together with unwillingness to report and prosecute these cases.[88]

45. GCNH noted that according to the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, 14% of women aged 15-19 have begun childbearing; either they have had a live birth (11%) or are pregnant with their first child (3%), a slight increase from 13% in 2008. They also stated that the percentage of women who have begun childbearing increases rapidly with age, from 2% among women age 15 to 36% among women age 19.[89]

46. FMSI noted that though Trokosi was legislated against, no prosecutions occurred in Ghana relating to this practice. It further stated that it was difficult to fully eliminate Trokosi as many families will send their girls back to the shrines if they are liberated out of fear of punishment by the gods.[90] FMSI recommended that Ghana reinforce the domestic guidelines and put stringent controls to monitor the practice of Trokosi, particularly in areas along the borders with countries where the practice is still prevalent. It also recommended ensuring that children and women who have undergone female genital mutilation and who are liberated from practices such as Trokosi, are given access to social, medical, rehabilitative and psychological services, and opportunity for legal redress.[91]

47. JS14 noted with concern that although domestic violence and violence against women is prohibited by the Domestic Violence Act of 2007, it continues to be a problem. Police seldom intervened in cases of domestic violence, in part due to a lack of counselling skills, shelter facilities and other resources to assist victims.[92] JS6 expressed similar concerns and also noted that appropriate support to victims remains a challenge.[93] JS6 therefore recommended Ghana to, as a matter of urgency, provide funds for the effective implementation of Section 8 (3) of the Domestic Violence Act, 2007, and to take immediate steps to set up shelters for victims as stipulated by the Act.[94]

Children [95]

48. JS6 noted with concern that Ghana has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world with an overall regional average of 25% and that child brides are also deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety,[96] and recommended Ghana to, as a matter of urgency, allocate adequate resources to the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection's Ending Child Marriage Unit and to implement the National Strategic Framework.[97] JS8 made similar recommendations and urged Ghana to develop a strategy and an operational national action plan to combat child marriage.[98]

49. JS12 was concerned that the existing Child and Family Welfare Policy states that social protection interventions would reduce practices like child marriage, but it fails to give clear guidance or strategies on how to protect children specifically against early marriage.[99] FSMI noted with concern that in 2016, 21% of girls in Ghana were married before the age of 18 and stated that research show that the practice of child marriage is mostly driven by socioeconomic factors, such as poverty, gender inequality, pregnancy and a lack of education.[100] FMSI recommended that Ghana raise awareness on the negative consequences of child marriage and the importance of education particularly in the Northern Region, and that provide adolescent children with sexual health education to prevent teenage pregnancy, in order to break the cycle of pregnancy leading to marriage.[101]

50. GCNH noted that the content of the topics covered under social studies failed to discuss critical sexual and reproductive health rights issues in detail such as sexually transmitted infections, youth pregnancy and abortion. They further noted that the lack of open discussion about sex leads to youth having very limited knowledge on sexual behaviour and activities.[102] GCNH recommended that Ghana Health Services improve the existing health centers and establish new ones to make the centres accessible to all young people in the country.[103]

51. JS8 noted that while the Government has made relentless efforts to curb down child abuse and violence, socio-cultural aspects and poverty continue to be major causes of violence against children. Culturally-rooted practices such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, Trokosi and witch crafting, continue to put children's rights and well-being at risk, while supposedly safe environments, such as schools and homes, remain settings where most acts of abuse and violence occur. Poverty has equal importance in the occurrence of violence and often put children at risk of exploitation, whether in the form of child labour, child trafficking and sexual exploitation.[104]

52. JS9 noted that officials at all levels of government, including the President, have publicly condemned female genital mutilation as an inhumane act. However, pockets remain in some rural hard to reach communities of Ghana.[105] JS9 recommended that Ghana enforce the law regulating arrest and detention of all perpetrators of female genital mutilation and increase the promotion of child welfare health advocacy campaigns and services to protect and safeguard the reproductive health of females in Ghana.[106]

53. GIEACPC noted with concern that in Ghana corporal punishment of children is lawful, despite repeated recommendations to prohibit it by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee, and the recommendation[107] made during the 2nd UPR cycle of Ghana in 2012, which the Government accepted.[108] JS8 expressed similar concerns and noted that corporal punishment remains a problem in many settings. Physical violence often continues to be rooted in cultural norms and perceived/interpreted by perpetrators as a punitive or deterrent measure rather than a form of violence against the child, hence making it socially acceptable. Moreover, in the home, corporal punishment is often a primary form of domestic violence to which both children and women are exposed. In the home, in schools, in day care and in alternative care settings, corporal punishment remains lawful, in

particular under provisions allowing "reasonable" and "justifiable" correction in article 13(2) of the Children's Act 1998.[109] FMSI recommended that Ghana strengthen the monitoring system to ensure that no child is given corporal punishment and that reinforce efforts to raise awareness on alternative methods of discipline, and the consequences for teachers using corporal punishment on pupils.[110]

54. JS8 stated that the Ghanaian Criminal Code prohibits a range of sexual offences, but that there is no adequate legislation to address sexual exploitation involving children who engage in prostitution. However, classification of the offence is not sufficient: enforcement of the legal framework is paramount, and is currently not happening due to lack of resources, leading to underreporting and impunity for offenders.[111]

55. JS5 noted with concern that children are being exploited in galamsey (illegal small-scale mining) sector, which is growing explosively.[112] In addition, the use of child labour is also rife in the cocoa production and fishing industry.[113] JS5 recommended that Ghana continue its combat against child labour, especially in the mining industry and cocoa production, including implementation of measures on children rehabilitation, reintegration and education.[114]

56. HRW noted that child labour continued to be a serious problem in the country, including in artisanal and small-scale gold mines, where thousands of children work in hazardous conditions. HRW added that most children were aged between 15 and 17, but younger children work in mining as well.[115]

57. FSMI noted with regret that according to independent reports published in January 2016, the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour did not accomplish its goals and that the number of child labourers had increased by the end of 2015, as had the proportion of those engaging in hazardous work.[116] FMSI recommended reinforcing the national monitoring mechanism to assess the actual situation of children engaging in the labour industry.[117]

Persons with disabilities[118]

58. JS4 stated that per a recommendation[119] made at UPR 2012, Ghana was to undertake effective policy measures and develop the necessary infrastructure to address issues concerning the rights of persons with disabilities and that to date Ghana has not taken steps to address this issue as infrastructure on public spaces continue to be built without due regard for the need of developing infrastructure with access to people with disabilities.[120]

59. JS4 also stated that the Disability Movement, led by Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations, conducted an analysis of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Ghana Persons with Disabilities Act, and identified remarkable weakness within the local law. JS4 recommended that the Government amend the Disability Act in compliance with the Convention on the protection of the rights of persons with disability by March 2018.[121]

60. JS2 stated that some attempts have been made with the implementation of the 2006 Persons with Disability Act to strengthen the promotion and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities but, that there was the need for the Government and its partners to work especially on sexual and reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities.[122] JS2 recommended that the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection put together an action plan outlining the commitment of government and other partner organisations to the full implementation of the Act, including budgetary allocation for this process.[123] Moreover, JS2 recommended that the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection ensure consistency between the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Disability Act by coordinating efforts aimed at harmonizing the two instruments.[124]

61. HRW stated that people with real or perceived psychosocial disabilities continue to be forced to live in psychiatric hospitals and prayer camps, often against their will and with little possibility of challenging their confinement.[125]

62. FMSI noted that the appalling condition of people with mental challenges admitted in the prayer camps still remained unabated. It further noted that there were no real monitoring systems in place to ensure that prayer camps were complying with mandatory reporting, or to ensure that they are not mistreating those under their care.[126] FMSI recommended that Ghana enact and strengthen a domestic policy that would guide and regulate the practice of prayer camps, and that develop and build more infrastructure to support mental health services replacing prayer camps in the country.[127]

Notes

[1] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

ACILA	Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability, Accra, Ghana;
ADF	Alliance Defending Freedom International, Geneva, Switzerland;
FMSI	Marist International Solidarity Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland;
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
HRAC	Human Rights Advocacy Centre, Accra, Ghana;
GCNH	Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health, Accra, Ghana;
HRW	Human Rights Watch, New York, United States of America;
MFWA	Media Foundation for West Africa, Accra, Ghana.

Joint submissions

JS1	**Joint Submission 1 submitted by:** POS Foundation; Amnesty International; Legal Resources Centre; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Solace Brothers; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability;
JS2	**Joint Submission 2 submitted by:** Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG); Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations; Vision for Alternative Development (VALD); Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC); Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR); Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH); African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA); Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF); Hope for Future Generations (HFFG);
JS3	**Joint Submission 3 submitted by:** Solace Brothers Foundation (SBF); Perfector of Sentiment (POS) Foundation; Priorities On Right and Sexual Health (PORSH); Amnesty International (Ghana); Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC); Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights Ghana (CEPEHRG); Society and Youth Development; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability (ACILA) Ghana;
JS4	**Joint Submission 4 submitted by:** Divine Group International Foundation (DGI Foundation); Center for employment of persons with disability (CEPD) and POS foundation;

JS5	**Joint Submission 5 submitted by:** Kasa Initiative Ghana; Wacam; Forest Watch Ghana; Coalition of CSO in Water and Sanitation; CSO working group on Environment and Climate Change; CSO working Group on Mining; Coalition of CSO on Oil and Gas; Fisheries Alliance; ; Coalition of CSOs on Land;
JS6	**Joint Submission 6 submitted by:** Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment; Legal Resources Centre; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Africa; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability; Restoration of Hope Foundation; POS Foundation; KASA Initiative Ghana; Amnesty International; IUCN Ghana; Gender Violence Survivors Support Network Ghana; Network of Women in Growth; Community and Family Aid Foundation; Women in the Lord's Vineyard; Society and Youth Foundation;
JS7	**Joint Submission 7 submitted by:** Coalition on the Right to Information Ghana; POS Foundation; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability; Restoration of Hope Foundation; KASA Initiative Ghana;
JS8	**Joint Submission 8 submitted by:** Ghana NGO Coalition for the rights of the Child (GNCRC); Defence for Children International-Ghana (DCI-Ghana); Plan International Ghana; Defence for Children International (DCI); ECPAT International;
JS9	**Joint Submission 9 submitted by:** Mind Freedom Ghana; Concern Health Education; Gender Violence Survivors Support Network; Network of Women in Growth Ghana; Amnesty International; Community and Family Aid Foundation; Women in the Lord's Vineyard; Grace to Grace Foundation; Society and Youth Foundation; Relive Ghana; The Light Foundation Ghana (TLF); One Love Initiative Foundation; Community Outreach Alliance; Patient Friend Foundation (PFF); Community Youth Development Foundation (CYDEF); POS Foundation ; KASA Initiative;
JS10	**Joint Submission 10 submitted by:** The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) and the Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana;
JS11	**Joint Submission 11 submitted by:** Tiger Eye Foundation Ghana; POS Foundation/KASA Initiative; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability (ACILA); Coalition on the Right to Information, Ghana (9CII); Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Africa Office (CHRI);
JS12	**Joint Submission 12 submitted by:** Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) and Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH);
JS13	**Joint Submission 13 submitted by:** Ghana Integrity Initiative and Transparency International;
JS14	**Joint Submission 14 submitted by:** Sisters of the Heart; Centre for Popular Education Human Rights in Ghana; Sexual Rights Initiative;
JS15	**Joint Submission 15 submitted by:** Amnesty International Ghana; POS Foundation; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI); African Centre for International Law and Accountability (ACILA); KASA Initiative;
JS16	**Joint Submission 16 submitted by:** PLN International and PLN Ghana

[7] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.1 – 123.7, 123.11, 125.1 – 125.5, 125.16, 125.50, 125.86.
[8] JS8, page 11.
[9] JS15, page 3.
[10] JS5, page 3.
[11] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.8-123.13, 124.1, 125.6 – 125.11, 125.16, 125.23 – 125.27, 125.44, 125.52 – 125.53, 125.90, 125.62 – 125.63, 125.84, 125.86 – 125.87, 125.89, 125.91.
[12] JS8, para. 21.
[13] JS11, para.14.
[14] JS11, para. 17 (l).
[15] JS13, page 2 and 5.
[16] A/HRC/22/6, para.123.11.
[17] ACLA, para. 1.
[18] HRW, para. 40.
[19] A/HRC/22/6, para.123.7.
[20] A/HRC/22/6, para.126.1, 126.2, 126.12, 126.14, 126.15.
[21] A/HRC/22/6, para.125.16, but also 125.1, 125.3, 125.5.
[22] ACLA, para. 2.
[23] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.18, 123.23, 124.1 – 124.2, 124.8 – 124.9, 125.60 – 125.61, 125.71, 125.75.
[24] JS3, para. 4.
[25] HRW, para. 33.
[26] JS10, paras. 19 and 20.
[27] HRAC, paras. 19 and 20.
[28] JS3, para. 3.
[29] JS14, para. 19.
[30] JS3, page 7.
[31] JS3, page 8.
[32] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.8, 123.11, 123.19, 123.20, 123.22, 124.3 – 124.7, 125.1, 125.3 – 125.5, 125.15 – 125.18, 125.45, 125.59, 125.90.
[33] JS1, para. 5.
[34] JS5, para. 8.1.
[35] JS5, para. 8.3.
[36] JS1, para. 14.
[37] MFWA, paras. 17 and 18.
[38] JS5, para. 8.7.
[39] JS5, para. 8.9.
[40] JS1, para. 21.
[41] HRAC, page 4.
[42] HRAC, page 5.
[43] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.11, 123.21, 124.1, 124.3-124.5, 124.7 – 124.9, 125.6, 125.10, 125.20 – 125.21, 125.29 – 125.40, 125.47, 125.49 – 125.50, 125.52, 125.57 – 125.59.
[44] JS11, paras. 6 and 7.
[45] JS1, para.15.
[46] JS1, para. 19.
[47] JS1, para. 36.
[48] JS5, para. 9.1.
[49] JS9, para. 5.1.
[50] JS1, para. 28.
[51] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.12, 125.62 – 125.63.
[52] A/HRC/22/6, para. 125.62 and 63.
[53] JS16, para. 6.
[54] JS7, paras. 10 and 13.
[55] JS16, paras. 10 and 11.

[91] SR WAS, para. 33.
[92] SR WAS, para. 30.
[93] JS16, para. 10.
[94] JS7, paras. 5, 6 and 7.
[95] JS7, para. 9.
[96] SR WAS, para.63.
[97] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 125.6, 125.65.
[98] JS15, para. 2.
[99] JS15, page 3.
[100] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 125.66, 125.82, 125.95.
[101] JS13, page 3.
[102] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 125.45, 125.64, 125.66, 125.74, 125.82, 125.90.
[103] JS10, para. 11.
[104] SOS, para. 18.
[105] SOS, para. 18.
[106] JS13, page 5.
[107] JS9, para.32.
[108] CACNH, para. 32.
[109] JS14, para. 28.
[110] HRCAC, page 4.
[111] HRCAC, page 5.
[112] JS9, para. 38.
[113] JS12, page 11.
[114] JS12, page 9.
[115] JS9, para. 8.
[116] JS9, para. 6.
[117] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 125.14, 125.28, 125.95, 125.64, 125.74 – 125.83.
[118] JS10, para. 16.
[119] JS3, para. 7.
[120] JS13, page 4.
[121] JS13, page 5.
[122] FMNI, para. 6.
[123] FMNI, para.7.
[124] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 123.9, 123.10, 123.16 – 123.18, 125.10 – 125.14, 125.19 – 125.45, 125.48, 125.67, 125.78 – 125.79.
[125] JS9, para. 4.1.
[126] JS14, para. 17.
[127] JS6, para. 40.
[128] JS10, para. 8.
[129] CACNH, para. 26.
[130] FMNI, para. 16 and 17.
[131] FMNI, para. 18.
[132] JS14, para. 5.
[133] JS6, para. 36.
[134] JS6, para. 40.
[135] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 123.1 – 123.9, 123.17, 123.20, 123.23, 124.7, 125.1 – 125.2, 125.10, 125.23, 125.27 – 125.28, 125.46 – 125.56, 125.59 – 125.61, 125.80.
[136] JS6, para. 9.
[137] JS6, para. 13.
[138] JS8, para. 21.
[139] JS12, page 19.
[140] FMNI, para. 21.
[141] FMNI, para. 20.
[142] CACNH, page 3.

[103] GCNH, page 7.
[104] JS8, para. 11.
[105] JS9, para. 20.
[106] JS9, para. 23.
[107] A/HRC/22/6, para. 123.20.
[108] GIEACPC, page 1.
[109] JS8, para. 12. See also GIEACPC, page 2.
[110] FSMI, para.30.
[111] JS8, para. 25.
[112] JS5, para. 12.1.
[113] JS5, para. 12.3.
[114] JS5, para. 12.4 (v).
[115] HRW, paras. 4 and 6.
[116] FSMI, para. 24.
[117] FSMI, para. 26.
[118] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.2, 125.84 – 125.90.
[119] A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.89.
[120] JS4, para. 1.
[121] JS4, para. 2.
[122] JS2, page 7.
[123] JS2, page 7.
[124] JS2, page 8.
[125] HRW, para. 18.
[126] FMSI, paras. 11 and 12.
[127] FMSI, para. 13.